

• COLORADO RIVER •
AQUEDUCT NEWS

THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT



OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

VOLUME XVIII.

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No. 6

DISTRICT DIRECTORS ATTEND ANNIVERSARY LUNCHEON



All members of the Metropolitan Water District Board of Directors except two were present at a tenth anniversary luncheon celebrating the first delivery of Colorado River water to District cities in June 1941. Directors attending the luncheon at the Huntington Hotel in Pasadena were (seated from left to right) John H. Ramboz, San Marino; Hugh W. Stiles, Pomona Valley Municipal Water District; Howard D. Mills, Los Angeles; Vice Chairman Warren W. Butler, Compton; Chairman Joseph Jensen, Los Angeles; Secretary Fred A. Heilbron, San Diego County Water Authority; Victor H. Rossetti, Los Angeles; Arthur Taylor, Beverly Hills; D. W. Pontius, Los Angeles; James L. Norwood, Burbank; Robert E. Austin, West Basin Municipal Water District; (standing, left to right) C. C. Cravath, Coastal Municipal Water District; Franklin Thomas, Pasadena; Gus A. Walker, Long Beach; Irwin E. Farrar, Eastern Municipal Water District; Lloyd C. Leedom, Long Beach; George W. Stevens, Torrance; H. H. Kohlenberger, Fullerton; A. H. Allen, Santa Ana; E. P. Hapgood, Anaheim; J. L. Burkholder, San Diego County Water Authority; Herman Nelson, Glendale; Samuel J. Crawford, Santa Monica. Directors Ransom W. Chase and Gordon B. Crary, both of Los Angeles, were unable to attend the meeting.

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Senate Action On S. 75 Came As No Surprise

The action of the United States Senate on June 5 in approving by a vote of 50 to 28 the fantastic Central Arizona Project bill (S. 75) came as no surprise to leading water officials and civic leaders in Southern California:

"Action of the Senate in voting favorably on the Central Arizona bill was not unexpected because the same political agreements exist in this session of Congress that brought about the vote for the project last year in the Senate," said Chairman Joseph Jensen, of the Metropolitan Water District's Board of Directors.

"In April the Interior and Insular Affairs Committee of the House of Representatives voted by a decisive margin to shelve the Arizona bill until the respective water rights of Arizona and California have been determined either by agreement between the states or the United States Supreme Court. No doubt the Arizona supporters of the bill passed by the Senate will try and revive the measure in the House but we are confident our California representatives, led by Congressmen Norris Poulson, Clair Engle and Samuel W. Yorty will be able to keep the measure bottled up in the Interior and Insular Affairs Committee of which they are members," Mr. Jensen said.

James H. Howard, General Counsel of the Metropolitan Water District said:

"The action of the United States Senate is in no sense a surprise. We have known for the past year that because of the strategic positions of certain senators from the reclamation states, particularly those from Arizona, we could not hope to win in that body. Our strength lies in the House. I am confident that the majority of the House Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs will stay with the decision an-

Informal Approval For Foothill District

At a meeting of the District's Board of Directors on June 8 informal approval was given to the boundaries of a proposed Foothill Municipal Water District.

Representatives from this area told the Board of Directors that they desire to organize the proposed Municipal Water District for the purpose of making this area eligible for annexation to the Metropolitan Water District.

The Foothill Municipal Water District, when formed, will comprise approximately 17,500 acres. The area runs easterly from Tujunga to Sierra Madre and northerly between the cities of Glendale and Pasadena to the Angeles National Forest.

The area has a population of about 70,000 persons with an assessed valuation estimated at \$73,000,000.

nounced April 18, and that the Senate bill will not pass the House.

"Confidence, however, does not justify any relaxation of our vigilance and efforts in the protection of the vital water supply."

Preston Hotchkis, President of the Colorado River Association, upon receiving news of the Senate vote, stated:

"Analysis of the Senate vote on the Central Arizona Project Bill indicates the tremendous political power of the two Arizona Senators, Hayden and McFarland.

"Senator Hayden is chairman of the Rules Committee and acting chairman of the Appropriations Committee. Senator McFarland is majority leader. Obviously, they have capitalized on their positions to the fullest extent, as they did in the Senate vote on a similar bill a year ago.

"This vote must alert every California citizen to the extreme peril which we face if we lose our rights on the Colorado River. Now is the time to write your friends and business connections in the East, telling them California's story, enclosing the tax map available at the Colorado River Association to show what the Central Arizona Project would cost their own State in higher taxes, and asking them to write to their Congressmen immediately to vote against the bill if and when it should come up in the House."

For the RECORD

(The following items are noted from the report of General Manager and Chief Engineer Julian Hinds, filed June 1951, covering District operations for May 1951.

Annexation Proceedings — On May 15 the residents of Eastern Municipal Water District voted 77 to 1 in favor of annexing to the Metropolitan Water District, and on May 22 directors were elected for the Orange County Municipal Water District.

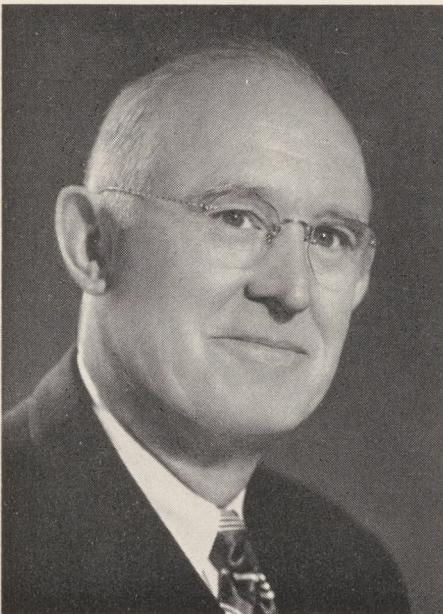
Hoover Dam — The power systems of the District and the Southern California Edison Company were operated in parallel during the entire month. Energy delivered to the Edison Company totaled 22,926,774 kWhr and peak delivery was 115,500 kw. The water level in Lake Mead on May 31 was at elevation 1146.16 feet, 4.82 feet higher than on April 30. Usable storage was 17,043,000 acre-feet, an increase of 543,000 acre-feet for May. The average discharge of the river at Hoover Dam was 15,000 cfs in May compared with 13,600 in April.

Parker Dam — The Lake Havasu water level varied from a low at elevation 449.1 feet to full reservoir level, and stood at 449.2 on May 31. The discharge of the Colorado at Parker Dam averaged 10,800 cfs compared with 12,700 in April. Peak delivery to the Parker system was 64,000 kw.

Pumping — Pumping was continuous throughout the month except for a shutdown of about 51 hours for work on the aqueduct from May 15 to 17.

Distribution — Delivery of Colorado River water to the San Diego aqueduct was continuous throughout the month at a record high average rate of 106.3 cfs. The water level at Lake Mathews on May 31 was at elevation 1351.38 feet and available storage was 92,665 acre-feet, a decrease for the month of 6,744 acre-feet. At the Weymouth Softening and Filtration Plant, Colorado River water was softened from an average hardness of 321 ppm to 125, or 70 million gallons per day. Inflow to the plant varied from a minimum of 64.0 to a maximum of 175.9 cfs. Softened water sales for the month averaged 96.0 cfs compared with 83.8 the previous month. Total sales of Colorado River water in May averaged 277.3 cfs compared with 262.9 the previous month.

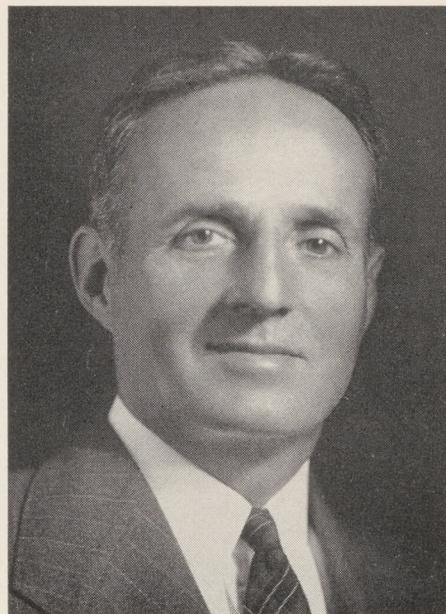
Purchasing — In May there were issued 305 purchase orders for a total of approximately \$32,000.



COUNCILMAN GEORGE KERRIGAN



MAYOR FLETCHER BOWRON



MR. PRESTON HOTCHKIS

(Continued from Page 4)
even now seeking to be annexed to the District.

The entire future growth in population, in business and in industry of this metropolitan area depends upon Colorado River water because our cities, including Los Angeles, are now using to the limit their local and other water supplies. Only the Colorado River is left to take care of our increasing needs of the future.

Our people have invested \$200,000,000 to build the Metropolitan aqueduct. We have not asked the other people in the United States to assume the burden of our investment. We are paying our own way, and are proud to do so.

Today I wish to salute the memory of William Mulholland and the other far-visioned California pioneers who took the initial steps to bring about the construction of our great aqueduct. We here today must stand on guard and protect for posterity our precious water supply from the Colorado River.

Thank you.

MR. THOMAS

The next speaker I am going to introduce is Mayor Russell K. Hart of Santa Monica. Santa Monica is the one District city that has been supplied practically 100% with Colorado River aqueduct water ever since that day in June of 1941 when the first Colorado River water flowed into Santa Monica mains. Mayor Hart of Santa Monica.

* * *

MAYOR RUSSELL K. HART

The greatest decision that the voters of Santa Monica ever made was reached

when they voted to become a part of the great Metropolitan Water District, for without Colorado River water, there would be no Santa Monica as we know it today.

Prior to June of 1941 Santa Monica received all of its water from municipally owned wells in and around the city. It was very hard water and vast quantities of softener were used to make it satisfactory for domestic purposes. The city was growing and the consumption of water increasing. There were no new water bearing lands available and each time a new well was sunk, the levels in the old wells dropped to a lower level. To put it bluntly, we were up against it for water.

A few months before Pearl Harbor, the transmission line to Santa Monica was completed and since that time, our water supply has been 100% from the Colorado River.

This was indeed fortunate, for with the war came the vast expansion of the Douglas Aircraft Company. At its peak of production, Douglas alone used as much water in a year as the entire city of Santa Monica had been using. Without Colorado River water, this would have been impossible. Santa Monica would undoubtedly have lost the Douglas Company and the production of war aircraft would have been considerably delayed.

I have been a seedsman and florist all of my life. Naturally I have a great interest in fine lawns, flowers, trees and shrubs. After ten years of the use of Colorado River water, the fine homes, gardens and parks of Santa Monica are a living demonstration of its fine qual-

ties for floral cultural purposes. The most sensitive of plants respond to it in a most healthful manner.

Today, Santa Monica is a vigorous, growing community. It has an abundant supply of pure, soft, fresh water sufficient to meet its needs, thanks to the Colorado River water. We owe an undying debt of gratitude to those great civic leaders of Southern California who had the vision to conceive and execute this great plan of the Metropolitan water system. Without Colorado River water, there could be no Santa Monica as we know it today.

* * *

MR. THOMAS

One of the most critical water supply conditions in Southern California today exists in San Diego County. The San Diego County Water Authority is a part of the Metropolitan Water District and receives Colorado River water through an aqueduct connection. Speaking for San Diego today we have Councilman George Kerrigan of the city of San Diego. Councilman Kerrigan.

* * *

COUNCILMAN GEORGE KERRIGAN

I am happy to be here today to represent The City of San Diego and to pinch-hit for our new Mayor, John Butler. Mr. Butler is in Detroit at a special civil defense conference and regrets he cannot be here, but I am sure that when you have the opportunity of meeting him you will find a highly intelligent young man who has already shown great ability and understanding of the complex problems of government.

(Continued on Page 6)



Mayors or their representatives from 28 of the 35 cities now in the Metropolitan Water District were honor guests at the District's tenth anniversary luncheon on June 20th. (Seated, left to right) Mayor James L. Hobel of Chula Vista, Mayor Ralph H. Hilton of Burbank, Mayor Charles P. Walker of Manhattan Beach, Mayor Russell K. Hart of Santa Monica, Mayor John C. Price of La Verne, Mayor Alan G. Orsborn of Pomona, Mayor Adams W. Bolton of Gardena, Mayor Harry L. Laugharn of Compton, Mayor Burton W. Chace of Long Beach, City Manager John J. Sailors representing Mayor Lester L. Isbell of Newport Beach, Mayor Courtney E. Chandler of Santa Ana, Mayor J. Frank Wharton of Laguna Beach. (Standing, left to right) Mayor Charles A. Pearson of Anaheim, Mayor A. E. Abernathy of Pasadena, Mayor Paul L. Burkhard of Glendale, Mayor F. Miles Nagel of La Mesa, Councilman George Kerrigan representing Mayor John D. Butler of San Diego, Mayor Clark E. Bell of San Marino, Mayor Fletcher Bowron of Los Angeles, Mayor W. M. Kolb of San Jacinto, City Manager Fred Workman representing Mayor James Simpson of Hemet, Mayor Dean Olson of Beverly Hills, City Manager Kalman I. Dienes representing Mayor Stuart G. Wheeler of Claremont, Mayor Robert L. Haggard of Torrance, Mayor J. Frank Coppel of Perris, Councilman William Kirk representing Mayor Albert J. Kuehl of Escondido, Mayor Thomas J. Eadington of Fullerton, Councilman Frank Schweitzer representing Mayor Charles O. McCart of Brea.

(Continued from Page 5)

Over a thirty-two year period I have watched the growth and development of the city and county of San Diego. San Diego is the home of such large military installations as the U. S. Naval Station, the Naval Air Station, Navy Training Center, U. S. Marine Corps and a base for naval forces afloat, as well as the home of four large aircraft plants: Solar, Consolidated, Ryan and Rohr. In 1940 San Diego had a population of 202,000 people. World War II more than doubled the city's population as manpower poured into its military installations and aircraft factories. Likewise, the consumption of water more than doubled.

The development of a local water supply within San Diego County has progressed over a long period of time, culminating in the construction of San Vicente Dam in 1942, which gave the city a net safe yield of 33 million gallons a day. However, the tremendous demands of World War II together with the City's heavy population growth

resulted in a serious overdraft on local reservoirs.

By the time Colorado River water reached this area in 1947, local reservoirs were badly depleted. Concurrent with this heavy demand began a period of drought, with 1941 the last year San Diego has had a normal runoff. We have not had a wet winter to restore the safe yield of the reservoirs since then and, consequently, this area has been almost completely dependent upon Colorado River water for the last four years. If the present drought continues another year, San Diego city along with the other cities of the county, (Chula Vista, National City, El Cajon, La Mesa, Oceanside, and Escondido) will be in a serious situation and, if it continues more than one year the situation may become desperate. And again, San Diego—with the start of the Korean war—has felt the impact of a growing defense community on its water supply.

Our interest and dependence on Colorado River water make San Diego especially aware of this tenth anniversary

to commemorate the arrival of River water to Southern California. We wish to honor those individuals whose foresight and ingenuity have made it possible for millions of people to enjoy Southern California and all its wonders.

MR. THOMAS

Largest of the Metropolitan Water District cities, of course, is the city of Los Angeles. It was Los Angeles, through a group of farsighted civic leaders, which actually started the Colorado River aqueduct project. William Mulholland set under way his aqueduct surveys in 1923, five years before the Metropolitan Water District was organized. Once the District was organized it took over and completed this work. Head of the Los Angeles city government for the past twelve years has been Mayor Fletcher Bowron. He has given wholeheartedly his support to the operations of the District. And now I have the honor to present Mayor Fletcher Bowron of Los Angeles.

(Continued on Page 7)

MAYOR FLETCHER BOWRON

To the city of Los Angeles this occasion is of great significance. It marks the end of a ten year period of water availability and the commencement of a new era of water consumption. After a quarter of a century of planning, engineering work, and cooperative action, our city is now beginning to use, because of need, the Metropolitan Water District supply, and all future growth and development in Los Angeles will henceforth depend entirely upon the water from the Colorado River.

The demands for domestic and industrial use have grown until now they exceed the supply from our local water rights (granted in perpetuity by the King of Spain when Los Angeles was founded in 1781) and the full capacity of our city-owned aqueduct that brings water from the melting snows of the eastern Sierra Nevadas collected in Owens Valley and Mono Basin.

Water for a population in excess of two million must henceforth come from the common source to the east, that will mean life and growth to most, if not all, of the various other cities of Southern California. Merely because Los Angeles is big and populous is no reason why it is to be regarded with suspicion or its motive or intent at any time questioned. Los Angeles is not selfish. The history of the Metropolitan Water District has demonstrated that, and the same policy will continue in the future.

The Controller of the District reports show that the Metropolitan Water District's total tax collected to May 31, 1951, from Los Angeles taxpayers was \$107,190,313.24, while the total tax collection made from all other units of the district was \$55,615,838.20. Los Angeles has, with comparatively little complaint, not only paid its share, based upon assessed valuation, for interest and retirement of outstanding bonds, but year by year its share to make up the annual operating deficit during all of the decade that other cities were receiving water.

In the early history of the district, after the issuance of bonds, Los Angeles represented about 81 per cent of the total assessed valuation and therefore paid 81 per cent of annual costs. With the comparatively recent addition of various other units to the district, the proportion has been reduced to about 58 per cent.

A compilation of the collections from tax levies of various years, varying as low as 3 cents to a high of 50 cents, re-

veals that through the years Los Angeles has paid 66 3/4 per cent of all costs. Last year the annual yield of a 34 cent tax rate was \$7,688,000 in Los Angeles, a quarter of a million dollars more than the fiscal year 1945-46 when the tax rate was 50 cents on secured and 48 cents on unsecured property.

Los Angeles is not complaining. It has made its annual contributions to protect its future. With the same spirit evidenced when it joined with friendly neighboring cities in the formation of the district in 1928 and later when its citizens voted overwhelmingly for the \$220,000,000 bond issue in 1931, Los Angeles will continue to work with other cities and units in the district for the mutual benefit of all to insure an adequate supply of life-giving water for Southern California.

* * *

MR. THOMAS

The population of the Metropolitan Water District has just about doubled in the past ten years. Many of the people living in this area were not here when the aqueduct was being built. They come from portions of the United States where water is not a recognized problem. It has been a huge task to bring our people to a realization that the very life of our cities is dependent upon retaining and protecting our Colorado River water. This work has been carried forward during the past four years by the Colorado River Association, an organization of representative citizens from all parts of California. Heading up this tremendously important work has been Preston Hotchkis, president of the Association. He has served the public interest with outstanding leadership that has inspired widespread confidence and support. I have the honor now to introduce the concluding speaker, Mr. Preston Hotchkis.

* * *

MR. PRESTON HOTCHKIS

The Colorado River Association has one single purpose. It is to protect our share of Colorado River water. After hearing the official reports today on how vital this water supply is to the homes and industries and the military establishments of Southern California, it is almost unbelievable that anything could happen to it. Yet, the fact is, we are being forced to conduct a campaign to keep the specified quantity of Colorado River for which we hold government contracts and on the strength of which we built the magnificent aqueduct sys-

tem whose tenth anniversary of service we observe here today.

Where does this threat to our community water supply originate? It originates in the state of Arizona. Some of the residents of that state are promoting a reclamation project that would use the identical amount of Colorado River water that our Metropolitan aqueduct was built to bring to Southern California cities. The Arizona project, if built, would mean a definite limitation to the growth and prosperity of Southern California. Such an economic setback must not be permitted to happen here. We of the Colorado River Association are devoting our energies to see that it does *not happen*. We have received complete and splendid cooperation from public officials, from business organizations, from Chambers of Commerce, from the AFL and the CIO, and not by any means least, from the ladies at home and in women's groups. They have been powerful forces in combating the Arizona legislative threat that is before Congress right now.

You know that the Senate on June the fifth voted for the project that would take water from California and give it to Arizona. The Senate took its action in the face of official government testimony that authorization of the Arizona project would add a two billion dollar tax burden on the taxpayers of all the states. We believe that this kind of a deal cannot be put over in the House of Representatives. We know it cannot succeed if the facts concerning the huge taxes involved in the project bill are known. We invite every Southern California man and woman to join in this campaign of education and to aid in the community program to protect our water supply. Write letters to eastern friends. Tell them about the two billion dollars in taxes they would have to pay in order to benefit private citizens in Arizona. Our friends in the East should be asked to write to their Congressmen urging them to vote against the Central Arizona Project bill.

If that is done we will win the Congressional fight to protect our Colorado River water supply and we can look forward with confidence to the twentieth and the thirtieth and countless more anniversaries of the start of Colorado River water delivery to Southern California.

(*Mr. Hotchkis' talk concluded the speaking program. The meeting was adjourned by Chairman of the Day Thomas.*)

NEWS FROM FIELD AND OFFICE



R. B. Diemer, Assistant General Manager and Chief Engineer, prepares to build himself a "Dagwood."



Here's Pretty Collen Keagy enjoying her lunch in solid comfort.



William F. McCleary, Superintendent, Aqueduct Maintenance at Lake Mathews, digs into the baked beans.



Controller A. W. McKinlay tries out his new Bolex. Assisting is Henry J. Mills, Construction Engineer.

DISTRICT EMPLOYES HOLD ANNUAL PICNIC IN SAN DIMAS CANYON PARK, JUNE 10.



Happy aqueductors enjoy lunch under spreading oak trees.



Hunter Carper, Utility Man, and John Powell, Maintenance Mechanic, were kept busy brewing lots of coffee.



Here some less active aqueductors enjoy razzing the players in the baseball game.



A well trained boarding house crew proved mighty helpful on this chow line.